

economic and political revolutions of the past two centuries, how small, after all, the change in the presentation of the social ethics of the Christian faith ! A few months after the appearance of the *Christian*

Directory, the Stop of the Exchequer tore a hole in the already intricate web of London finance, and sent a shiver through the money-markets of Europe. But

Baxter, though no mere antiquarian, discourses of equity in bargaining, of just prices, of reasonable rents, of the sin of usury, in the same tone, if not with quite the same conclusions, as a mediaeval Schoolman, and he differs from one of the later Doctors, like St. Antonino, hardly more than St. Antonino himself had differed

from Aquinas. Seven years later Bunyan published

*The Life and Death of Mr. Badman** Among the vices which it pilloried were "the Sin of extortion, "most

commonly committed by men of trade, who without

all conscience, when they have an advantage, will make a prey of their neighbour," the covetousness

of "hucksters, that buy up the poor man's victual

wholesale and sell it to him again for unreasonable

gains," the avarice of usurers, who watch till

"the poor fall into their mouths," and "of those vile wretches

called pawnbrokers, that lend money and goods to poor

people, who are by necessity forced to such an incon-

venience, and will make by one trick or
another the
interest of what they so lend amount to
thirty and forty,
yea sometimes fifty pounds by the year.' *~"
'As ~CKristian
and Christiana watched Mr- Badman thus
bite and pinch
the poor in his shop in Bedford, before they
took staff
and scrip for their journey to a more distant
City, they
remembered that the Lord himself will
plead the cause
of the afflicted against them that oppress
them, and
reflected, taught by the dealings of Ephron
the son of
Zohar, and of David with Ormon the-
^ebusite, that
there is a " wickedness, as in selling too
dear, so in
buying too cheap." ^M Brother Berthold of
Regens-
burg had said the same four centuries
before, in his